

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. The Specification is amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added, and entry of the amendment at this time is proper.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested. This Amendment, in conjunction with the following remarks is believed to place the application in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and favorable consideration of the patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Specification stands objected to for certain informalities. The drawings stand objected to because the numeral as shown in the Specification for Figures 3a and 3b allegedly do not match with the drawings. Claims 1 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,122,936 (Csipkes et al.). Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by Csipkes in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,179,419 (Palmquist et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the objections and rejections.

Objections

The Specification and the drawings stand objected to. Applicant amends the Specification to correct a typographical error and certain informalities. Applicant maintains that the correction provides the proper reference numeral with regard to Figures 3a and 3b. Applicant amends the Specification to recite "alignment pins 402", which matches alignment pins 402 in Figure 3a. Therefore, a drawing correction is not required because the objection is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the Specification and the drawings.

Rejections

Claims 1 and 5-10 are rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Csipkes. Claims 2-4 are rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Csipkes in view of Palmquist. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant hereby attaches a copy of the recorded assignment for Csipkes that traverses the obviousness rejections in the present application because Csipkes and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to CIENA Corporation. A recorded assignment is proper evidence to establish common ownership under MPEP 706.02(1)(2). Thus, the rejections are rendered moot, and

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejections.

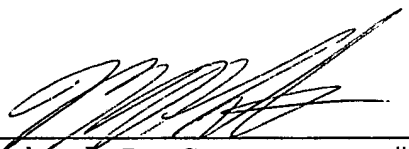
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact William F. Nixon (Reg. No. 44,262) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Assignment Documents for
Patent No. 6,122,936 (Csipkes et al.)